



May 2023
Newsletter



May Greetings from CREA

Spring has sprung and CREA is blossoming. The CREA Library + Learning Center is bursting at the seams with kids eager to learn and teachers ready to teach. The Mobile Outreach teams load up the pickups and head for the hills to bring books and learning to kids and families who are unable to make it to the CREA Center.

CREA is also incredibly excited to share our Strategic Plan. After great collaboration with the CREA team, community partners, students, parents, and Board of Directors, this plan will guide CREA in anticipation of continuous growth.

The success stories that follow reflect the essential partnership with our generous supporters who make CREA's impactful work possible.

Academic Success

Weekly visits from CREA are in such high demand for students in remote areas that attendance has more than doubled at our outreach sites. Likewise for attendance at the CREA Library + Learning Center. By focusing on the fundamentals of literacy and mathematics, students are better prepared to maximize their success in school.



Jonathan asks a question during outreach programming before school in his community.

10-year-old Jonathan, from a local indigenous community, has always struggled in school. His mom enrolled him in CREA's academic reinforcement program early on where he has worked hard to overcome his learning differences. He has grown into a very involved fourth grader who is eager to participate every day in all activities at school and at CREA. Jonathan is a role model for both his peers at CREA and in his community with his strong values such as empathy, love, and respect for others.

Library Services

Our Mobile Library delivers books and literacy programming to an increasing number of remote communities. CREA Reading Facilitators not only inspire confidence in readers as they learn to read but also help them try something new like reading aloud. Though unfamiliar and at first intimidating, this helps participants build confidence.



Iris reciting a poem by Rubén Darío at the World Book Day celebration at CREA.

Iris joined Mommy + Me in 2021 with her young son, Edgar. Now her son is in pre-school and she participates in Book Club for moms. At first, Iris found it difficult to participate fully. With help from CREA, Iris slowly began to overcome her shyness through read-alouds. And last month, she recited a poem by the Nicaraguan author, Rubén Darío, in front of a large crowd for World Book Day at CREA.

Youth Development

CREA's Youth Development Initiative has been restructured to allow for even more adolescents to participate and create positive change in their lives. CREA motivates students to finish school, explore beyond their boundaries, be leaders in their communities, and strive toward goals that they had never imagined were possible.



Norvin (left) at CREA working on literacy and math skills and looking toward the future.

Norvin is currently 16 years old and is completing his last year of high school. Since he first began participating in CREA's Youth Development program in 2018, his attitude toward school has shifted dramatically. Norvin's goal of attending university drives him and reinforces his desire to excel academically. He will be the first in his family to receive a post-secondary education, and eventually a professional career. He looks forward to continued support as he embarks on his college adventure.

Scholarship Highlight



Marian excited to complete her degree this year.

Marian began participating in CREA’s Youth Development Initiative in 2014 when she was in high school. Despite becoming the primary caregiver for her younger sister due to family hardship when she was still in secondary school, Marian completed school and received a CREA university scholarship in 2019.

Now 22, Marian has a deep desire to become a professional and support her family. She is excited to be completing her degree in tourism and hotel management this year and says, “the opportunity CREA gave me radically changed my life.”

CREA's 2023-2025 Strategic Plan



CREA has experienced incredible growth and success and we continue to foster our deep commitment to the kids and the communities we serve. Our number one goal during the strategic planning process was to respond to the needs of the communities and set the path of the organization based on those needs. Browse our new Strategic Plan to see the direction CREA is headed over the next few years.

Visit www.creanicaragua.org to read the Strategic Plan.

We wish you a very lovely spring. We are very grateful for your generous support in helping CREA reach the young people of Nicaragua.



¡Muchas Gracias!
Michelle Chackerian, Executive Director,
Lilly Berrios, In-Country Operations Director,
and the entire staff and Board of Directors at CREA



Elevating Nicaraguans and their communities through literacy and learning.